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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

30-09-2026



Total pilgrims :78,723
Tonsures : 37,664
Hundi kanukalu : 4.63 CR
Laddu sale... 4.48 Lac
Annaprasadam.3.04 Lac
Ashwini hospital..3,834
Present Situation on 01-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments... Outside line at Octopus building (Near Gogarbam Dam circle).

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...24H.



Nation News

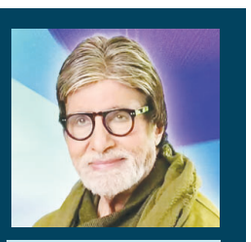
Shivakumar alleges conspiracy to delete 45 lakh voters

India to open 2027 ODI World Cup campaign against Australia on Oct 7, face Pakistan on Oct 10



SPORTS NEWS

Amitabh Bachchan injures knee during KBC 18 shoot,



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

BRING RS 50,000, THEN USE TOILET: UP WOMAN ACCUSES IN-LAWS OF DOWRY HARASSMENT

BHADOHI (UTTAR PRADESH): A woman in Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi has alleged that her in-laws locked the toilet in their house and prevented her from using it after she refused to bring Rs 50,000 from her father as dowry, police said on Thursday. Superintendent of Police Abhinav Tyagi said the complaint of Shabnam, a resident of Roshan Tara locality, led to an FIR against her father-in-law Buniyaad, brothers-in-law Iliyas and Nanhku, and sisters-in-law Sana and Rehana at the City Kotwali police station on Wednesday.

ENGINEER ALLEGEDLY RAPED AT GUNPOINT

Bhubaneswar: In a shocking incident, an unknown masked miscreant allegedly sexually assaulted a 26-year-old woman engineer at gunpoint in an apartment under the Nayapalli police station area in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday night, the Commissionerate Police said on Thursday. The cops launched an investigation after registering a case on the basis of the complaint lodged by the victim. Police sources stated the victim, who reportedly hails from Jagatsinghpur district, is working as an engineer with a private company in Bhubaneswar.

Telangana cabinet clears 2 pending DA instalments, reviews drought relief

EMPLOYEES AND PENSIONERS TO BENEFIT ANNUAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ESTIMATED AT RS. 2,500 CR



Hyderabad ■ (TSIT)

The Telangana Cabinet on Thursday approved the release of two pending instalments of Dearness Allowance (DA) for government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners. The Cabinet also reviewed drought conditions, paddy procurement arrangements and measures to meet the state's rising electricity demand.

The two instalments, pending since 2024, will be sanctioned immediately, while the accumulated arrears will be paid in instalments. According to the Cabinet statement, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy decided to honour the assurance given during recent discussions with employees' associations despite the financial burden. The decision is expected to entail an additional annual expenditure of Rs.2,500 crore.

The Cabinet held detailed discussions on conditions attributed to El Niño and the rainfall deficit across Telangana. The statement said the state recorded nearly 17 per cent deficient rainfall during the monsoon season, which ended on September 30, with around 235 mandals facing severe rainfall shortages and drought conditions.

Immediate relief measures will be discussed by a Cabinet subcommittee. The Chief Minister directed officials to organise an all-party meeting shortly, along with consultations involving farmers' organisations and experts from different sectors. The Cabinet sought Central assistance, including action concerning the declaration of drought-affected mandals.

Rahul meets tribals in MP after 32 die of diseases

He alleged that the tragedy was a result of the government's failure to effectively tackle diseases and malnutrition in the tribal-dominated district.

Balaghat ■ (TSIT): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday, October 1, met the families of tribal children who have died of suspected infectious diseases in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district in the last few months and said he was pained at the loss of precious lives and accused the BJP government of not discharging its duty. He alleged that the tragedy was a result of the government's failure to effectively tackle diseases and malnutrition in the tribal-dominated district.



The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha insisted adivasis are the original inhabitants and first owners of the country, but bemoaned they have been left in the lurch in the heart of the country. Tribal have been left to fend for themselves and there was no government, either central or state, here (in tribal belt), he maintained. Gandhi travelled by road from Gondia in neighbouring Maharashtra to places in Birsa development block in Balaghat, where he spent about an hour meeting Baiga tribal families, including those who have lost their children, and patiently listening to their grievances.

More than 1,200 people from neighbouring villages gathered to meet Gandhi during his visit, according to local Congress leaders.

Before reaching Jagla village, the Congress MP visited a government primary school in Mate village, interacted with children and enquired about mid-day meal being served to them. At Jagla, Gandhi told reporters that children in the tribal areas had died due to diseases and malnutrition and alleged that the BJP government had failed to provide adequate healthcare, education and employment support to people.

Telangana records rainfall deficit of 18 pc; Andhra Pradesh 29 pc



Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana recorded a rainfall deficit of 18 per cent during the 2026 southwest monsoon season, while Andhra Pradesh saw a shortfall of about 29 per cent. Within Andhra Pradesh, the Rayalaseema region recorded a huge deficit of 40 per cent, while Coastal Andhra and Yanam saw a departure of 17 per cent. Despite receiving less rain than normal, Telangana ended the season in the normal category.

According to the Telangana Development Planning Society, cumulative rainfall from June 1 to October 1 was 615.6 mm against the normal of 746.3 mm, a deviation of -18 per cent. Out of 33 districts of Telangana, 15 recorded normal rainfall, while the remaining districts saw a deficit ranging from 20 to 43 per cent. The state capital, Hyderabad, recorded a 28 per cent rainfall deficit.The southwest monsoon (June-September), which officially ended on September 30, has been weak for the Telugu states. Though the deficit was high during July-August, a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal in the last week of September improved the rainfall scenario.

279th Annual Day



Union Minister for Defence, Rajnath Singh lighting the lamp at Defence Accounts Department's 279th Annual Day at DRDO Bhawan, in New Delhi.. PIB Photo

BCs will continue to receive our support: CM Naidu

AP to move Supreme Court on 34% BC reservations



Visakhapatnam ■ TSIT:

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the coalition government would continue to support Backward Classes socially, politically and economically. He announced that the State would approach the Supreme Court on Friday challenging the High Court order on 34 per cent BC reservations in local bodies.

Addressing a public meeting at Repalle after participating in the NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme, Mr. Naidu said 34 per cent reservation had been provided to BCs in local bodies in 1995. He alleged that the previous government reduced it to 24 per cent, resulting in thousands of BCs losing opportunities for elected positions.

He said the government was focusing on welfare along with development and had spent Rs.76,000 crore on pensions so far. House-site pattas worth Rs.52,000 crore had been distributed to poor families, while measures were being taken to turn more DWCRA women into entrepreneurs.

Rayalaseema to become horticulture hub

Mr. Naidu said Rayalaseema and neighbouring districts would be developed as a global horticulture hub with an investment of Rs.1 lakh crore. The initiative would promote horticulture, logistics and tourism. He said Suryalanka beach in Bapatla would be developed as a major tourism destination. Thirty-six development projects worth Rs.35,000 crore would be completed over the next three years, he added.

Picnic ends in tragedy as 8 students drown off Diveagar beach in Maharashtra's Raigad

The students were part of a group of 25 boys, 17 girls and six teachers who had gone for a picnic at the beach

Mumbai ■ (TSIT)



Eight students on a picnic drowned in the Arabian Sea off the popular Diveagar beach in Maharashtra's Raigad district on Thursday, with the bodies of all the victims being recovered, police said.These students of Class XI and XII were part of a group from a private coaching institute, 'Winners Academy', based at Alandi in Pune district, they said.

Located around 170 km from Mumbai, Diveagar is famous for its beach and historic temples.

A police official said a group of 48 people, including 25 boys, 17 girls and six teachers, had gone for a picnic at the beach under the jurisdiction of the Dighi Coastal Police Station.Eight students ventured into the sea and were swept away after misjudging the depth of the water and current, he added.Search and rescue teams rushed to the spot following an alert and recovered the bodies, he said. Police personnel and local authorities are present at the site to carry out further legal and administrative proceedings, the official said. Meanwhile, terming the incident as "heartbreaking", Shiv Sena MLA Mahendra Dalvi, who represents the Alibag assembly constituency, on Thursday expressed disappointment over the "lack of adequate safety precautions" by the local administration.The lives of eight students ended tragically during their trip to Diveagar from Pune, he said."Such incidents keep happening there time and again, so the local administration must take safety precautions. Young schoolchildren may not be able to assess the risks posed by the sea, including high tide and the depth of water," he said, stressing the need for making appropriate arrangements there.

Had these students been guided or advised about the unpredictable nature of the sea, their lives would have been saved. They should have been cautioned against venturing into the water, he added.

CJP's Dipke dares Fadnavis govt to arrest him ahead of Mumbai agitation

Mumbai ■ (TSIT)



Launching a direct and fiery broadside at Maharashtra Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday warned the state government against making tactical errors, daring the authorities to arrest him ahead of CJP's scheduled demonstrations from October 2 in Mumbai."Do not repeat the mistake committed on July 20. If you want to arrest us, do it right now," he declared during a press conference in Mumbai, setting a tense backdrop for his party's upcoming agitation against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Calling Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar a "traitor to the nation," Dipke demanded his immediate resignation over allegations of widespread electoral roll manipulation.

Left parties demand CEC Gyanesh Kumar's removal over SIR

Chennai ■ (TSIT):



Left parties staged demonstrations at several places across Tamil Nadu on Thursday, demanding the resignation or removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over what they alleged was the disenfranchisement of more than 13 crore voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Leading a demonstration near Washermanpet in Chennai, CPI(M) State Secretary P Shanmugam alleged that the SIR exercise was being used to systematically delete targeted voters from electoral rolls.

Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan kill 9

Kabul ■ (TSIT): Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan killed nine people and injured 11 others on Thursday, according to the Afghan Taliban government, as tensions between the two neighbouring countries escalated following months of relative calm.

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CM Vijay appeals to all to wear khadi marking Mahatma Gandhi's birthday

In a statement issued on Thursday ahead of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, the Chief Minister said the day was an occasion to remember the history of the country's freedom struggle, simplicity, self-confidence and humanity.



CHENNAI: Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has appealed to everyone, including school and college students, to wear khadi clothes and use Gramodyog products to support the livelihood of handloom weavers.

In a statement issued on Thursday ahead of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, the Chief Minister said the day was an occasion to remember the history of the country's freedom struggle, simplicity, self-confidence and humanity. "If we buy khadi clothes and products, it gives recognition and respect to handloom weavers. Using local products will boost home-based production. To encourage this, Khadi shops run by the Tamil Nadu government are offering a 30 per cent discount on all dress materials," the Chief Minister said. Appealing to the public, including school and college students, government employees and youth, to wear khadi clothes and use Gramodyog products, he said the move would help improve the livelihoods of weavers and handicraft workers.



Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission members called on the Honble Chief Minister at the Secretariat

Tamil Nadu extends registration validity of 40,296 government vehicles



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has extended the registration validity of 40,296 vehicles belonging to government departments, state transport undertakings and local bodies by one year, up to September 30, 2027.

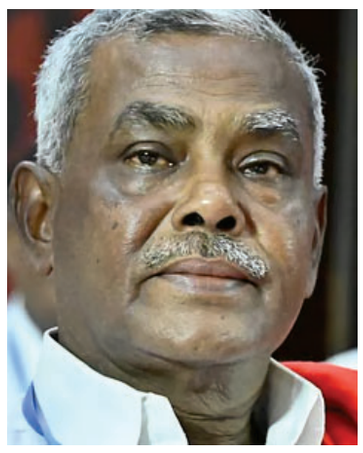
The move comes as the validity granted to 12,000 government vehicles is set to expire on September 30, 2026.

The government has also permitted the State Transport Authority (STA) and Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) to extend the registration validity annually, up to September 30, 2035, for government vehicles that have crossed 15 years but are yet to be scrapped and replaced.

The order issued by the Home (Transport-IV) Department on September 29 said the Transport and Road Safety Commissioner had identified around 40,296 vehicles whose registration validity would expire up to 2035. The Commissioner had sought permission to extend their registration validity and allow manual processing of tax and fitness certificates wherever renewal through the Vahan portal was not possible.

CPM alleges TVK paid most to voters in Madurantakam bypoll

Shanmugam said the statement appeared to suggest that constituencies represented by Opposition MLAs would not receive government support.



CHENNAI: CPM state secretary P Shanmugam on Thursday (October 1) alleged that TVK had paid the highest amount to voters among parties campaigning for the Madurantakam bypoll, based on what voters told him during his campaign in the constituency on Wednesday (September 30). Speaking to reporters after staging a demonstration seeking resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar here, Shanmugam said that while campaigning in several villages in Madurantakam, voters approached CPM workers seeking cash and told them that other parties were distributing money.

"They told us that others were giving money and asked why we were giving only pamphlets. When we asked which parties had given money, voters said TVK had given the highest amount," he said.

Referring to Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's campaign projection of itself as a "Thooya Sakthi" (clean force), Shanmugam said Vijay had campaigned during the previous election and was also campaigning now that the party would not give money in return for votes.He said voters even bargained with CPM workers, asking them to give at least some money if they could not match the amount allegedly being offered by other parties. "We told them that the strength of the CPM is its struggles and its support among working people. Neither the CPM nor the Left parties will ever give money to secure votes," Shanmugam said. He said the party would lodge a complaint with the Election Commission regarding the alleged distribution of cash.

Shanmugam said he returned from Madurantakam only on Wednesday night and would file the complaint on Thursday. He further criticised a statement made by a TVK candidate at a campaign meeting in Dharapuram on Wednesday that she had resigned from her earlier position and joined TVK to do good for her constituency. Shanmugam said the statement appeared to suggest that constituencies represented by Opposition MLAs would not receive government support.

Tripartite meet on Annamalai University staff's long-pending demands



CHENNAI: A tripartite meeting was convened at the Secretariat on Wednesday between the Higher Education Department, Annamalai University administration and the university employees, focussing on the ongoing crisis over long-pending pension benefits, pay arrears, promotions and other service-related issues.

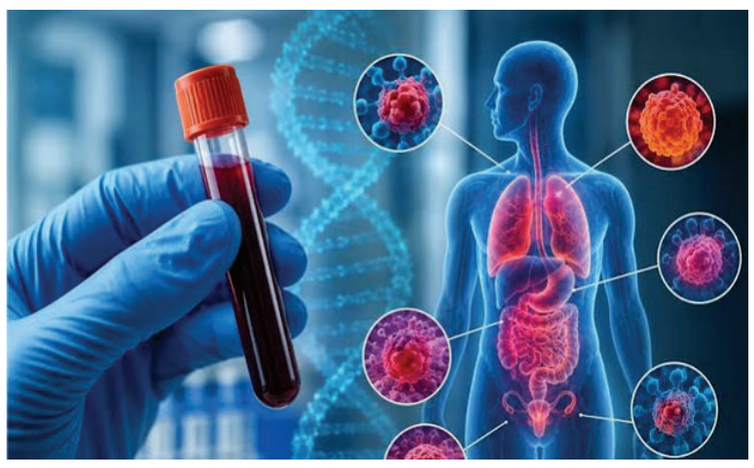
The Higher Education Minister P Viswanathan chaired the meeting, along with Higher Education Secretary Dheeraj Kumar, Directorate of Technical Education Commissioner Rathinasamy and representatives of Annamalai University employees.

The employees sought the release of retirement benefits to pensioners and families of pensioners, besides implementation of the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) for eligible employees.

They also sought the release of pending arrears under the Seventh Pay Commission, which remains a major pay-related issue for the university employees. Pending promotions for teaching and non-teaching staff were also discussed, with the employees urging the government to take steps to clear the backlog. The representatives further sought the release of pending PhD incentive amounts for teachers.

Other demands included enhancement of the gratuity ceiling and encashment benefits for earned leave. The government officials discussed the demands raised by the employees and the steps required to address these issues.

Blood test shows promise in detecting multiple cancers, major study finds



New Delhi, Oct 1: A blood test designed to detect signals from multiple types of cancer has shown promise in a large study involving nearly 36,000 adults, although researchers say further trials are needed to determine whether the technology can ultimately reduce cancer deaths.

Results from the PATHFINDER 2 study, published in Nature Medicine, involved 35,878 adults aged 50 and above in the United States and Canada who had no clinical suspicion of cancer and had not been diagnosed with or treated for cancer during the previous three years.

The study evaluated the Galleri multi-cancer early detection test, which analyses chemical patterns in fragments of DNA circulating in the blood. When a cancer signal was detected, the test also predicted the likely tissue or organ where the signal originated, helping doctors determine where to begin further diagnostic testing.

32,007 participants with a full 12 months of follow-up, 287 received a positive test result. Of these, 173 were subsequently diagnosed with cancer. This resulted in a positive predictive value of 60.3%, meaning that about six in 10 positive results were associated with a cancer diagnosis during the study period. The test had a specificity of 99.64%, while its negative predictive value was 99.2%. Overall, cancer was detected in 0.54% of participants, equivalent to about one cancer diagnosis for every 185 people screened.

However, the test did not detect every cancer. Its 12-month episode sensitivity was 39.3% across all cancers. The figure rose to 69.8% for a predefined group of 12 cancers responsible for a large proportion of cancer deaths, including cancers of the pancreas, liver, colorectal tract, stomach and other organs. Researchers noted that sensitivity varied considerably by cancer type.

The test's overall sensitivity was affected by cancers such as breast and prostate cancer, for which established screening methods already exist. The researchers therefore stressed that a multi-cancer blood test should not be considered a replacement for recommended screening procedures.

Among cancers detected through the test, 53% were diagnosed at stage I or II, while about 71% were diagnosed at stage I, II or III. The study also found that the test's prediction of the likely origin of the cancer signal was accurate in 91.3% of cases.

A major potential benefit of the technology is its ability to detect cancers for which there are currently no widely recommended screening tests. The study found that many of the cancers identified through the blood test belonged to types that are not routinely screened for in the general population.

The researchers also examined the safety of follow-up investigations. Among 35,335 participants included in the safety analysis, 213, or 0.6%, underwent an invasive procedure following a positive test result. About 90.5% of those procedures were nonsurgical, such as biopsies or endoscopic examinations.For participants who were ultimately diagnosed with cancer, the median time between receiving the blood-test result and confirmation of the diagnosis was 37 days.

The findings come alongside results from the separate NHS-Galleri randomised controlled trial in England, which evaluated the same type of multi-cancer blood test among more than 142,000 people aged 50 to 77. Across three annual screening rounds, the test showed high specificity, but its sensitivity for detecting cancer remained limited. Importantly, the NHS-Galleri trial did not meet its primary endpoint of reducing the incidence of stage III or IV cancers. Researchers have therefore cautioned that demonstrating the ability to detect cancer earlier is not enough by itself to establish that the tests improve survival.

The PATHFINDER 2 researchers said longer follow-up and further studies are required to determine the clinical benefits of multi-cancer early detection testing. For now, the blood test is being studied as an additional screening tool rather than a replacement for established cancer screening. Mammograms, colonoscopies, cervical cancer screening and other recommended tests remain important because the multi-cancer test can miss cancers. The findings nevertheless provide one of the largest prospective assessments so far of a blood-based test designed to detect multiple cancers in people without symptoms, offering further evidence about both its potential and its current limitations.

Chewing tobacco linked to 251,000 deaths globally in 2023: Study



New Delhi, Oct 1: Chewing tobacco use contributed to an estimated 251,000 deaths worldwide in 2023, with the health burden overwhelmingly concentrated in South Asia, according to a new study by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

The analysis, part of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023 and published in The Lancet Global Health, assessed chewing tobacco-related health burden across 204 countries and territories from 1990 to 2023. Researchers distinguished chewing tobacco from other forms of smokeless tobacco that are often grouped together. An estimated 241 million people aged 15 and above used chewing tobacco in 2023, representing 3.9% of the global population in that age group. Use was more than twice as prevalent among males as females. Researchers found no country recorded a significant decline in the number of users between 1990 and 2023, while 24 countries recorded significant increases.

South Asia remained the main centre of chewing tobacco use, with 14.6% of people aged 15 and above using such products in 2023. The region accounted for an estimated 210,000 deaths, around 84% of the global total.

At the country level, age-standardised prevalence was highest in Palau at 24.4%, followed by Bangladesh at 23.4% and Nepal at 17.5%.

More than 90% of chewing tobacco-related deaths and disability among males occurred in 10 countries — India, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Myanmar, the United States, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Madagascar. Among females, more than 90% of the burden was concentrated in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, China, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Nepal. The researchers said the pattern of use varied considerably by age and sex. Globally, chewing tobacco use increased from early adulthood and continued rising with age before peaking among people aged 60 to 64. In South Asia, nearly one in five males and one in 10 females used chewing tobacco in 2023. Among males, use peaked at ages 60 to 64, while among females it peaked among those aged 80 and above. Patterns differed between countries. In Bangladesh, chewing tobacco use was higher among females than males across all age groups above 30, although use remained common among both sexes.

Shivakumar alleges conspiracy to delete 45 lakh voters

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday alleged that there were "conspiracies" going on to delete a large number of votes by individuals who are filing multiple applications to erase names from the electoral roll under the ongoing SIR in the state.He also called SIR a "big fraud." Addressing a press conference here, he accused the BJP of involved in this conspiracy to delete "minorities, Dalits and ST voters" from the electoral roll.Shivakumar threatened that he would sit at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukkumar until an inquiry is ordered into the matter. He also asked the Election Commission to file FIR on "vote theft" and electoral offence."There are many instances of individuals filing multiple applications in different names for deleting voters. Minorities, Dalits, tribals are being targeted to remove their names from electoral roll under Special Intensive Revision," Shivakumar claimed. According to him, applications have been filed to delete 45 lakh votes.



Hi life brides comes to bangalore



Bengaluru: Hi Life Brides brings a luxurious celebration of all things beautiful for brides and their special moments to Bangalore. The event promises an exquisite showcase of bridal wear, designer wear, bridal couture, stunning jewellery, and glamorous trousseau and accessories, all under one roof.

From the perfect bridal ensemble to elegant festive looks, visitors can discover styles crafted to make every celebration unforgettable. Whether preparing for a wedding or a festive occasion, the exhibition offers a curated destination for brides seeking inspiration and refined fashion.

The event will be held on 3rd and 4th October at Taj West End, Bangalore. It invites brides-to-be and fashion lovers to begin their journey toward a beautifully unforgettable celebration. With a focus on luxury, elegance and variety, Hi Life Brides aims to be Bangalore's ultimate bridal and festive shopping destination, bringing together designers, jewellers and accessory brands for a truly special experience.

Why hasn't Kumaraswamy disclosed his family's assets? – S. Manohar



Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar has questioned why H.D. Kumaraswamy has not disclosed details regarding his family's assets and land holdings within the scope of the NICE project, despite his vocal opposition to the project.

Speaking at a joint press conference regarding allegations raised against D.K. Shivakumar concerning the BMIC/NICE project and associated land dealings, Manohar urged Kumaraswamy to provide a response based on official and government records to ensure public clarity on the matter.

He further noted that D.K. Shivakumar had boldly asserted from New Delhi that no irregularities occurred during the second phase of the project and that all purchases and transactions were lawful; yet, Kumaraswamy has alleged that thousands of acres of excess land were allocated under the NICE project. Manohar questioned why Kumaraswamy is not addressing the fact that the issue has already been adjudicated by the courts. He also pointed out that while Kumaraswamy has highlighted the declaration of assets worth Rs.1,400 crore in D.K. Shivakumar's election affidavit, he has failed to disclose his own family's assets. He referred to the long political service rendered by Sri H.D. [Deve Gowda]—who has served as Prime Minister and Chief Minister at the national and state levels for nearly 65 years... Deve Gowda *saheb*'s assets amount to only eight crore rupees. Yet, Kumaraswamy's son, Nikhil Kumaraswamy, declared assets worth 114 crore rupees in the election. Why has there been no explanation regarding the source of such a vast sum of money at the age of just 35?

The combined assets of H.D. Kumaraswamy, Anitha Kumaraswamy, and Nikhil Kumaraswamy total 550 crore rupees. Why have you not disclosed this? You have stated that the irregularities in the NICE project involve lakhs of crores, surpassing even the 2G scam. However, if your family's assets were to be fully disclosed, the figure might well exceed even a "3G" scale. You have alleged that D.K. Shivakumar, D.K. Suresh, and their mother and daughter have amassed crores of rupees; yet, ironically, why have you kept secret the fact that a loan was obtained from your brother H.D. Revanna's son, Prajwal Revanna?Whom did you blackmail and coerce into paying crores of rupees to ensure you reaped maximum profits from the NICE project? Why have you not revealed the identity of that "Nikhil Gandhi"?

CRY calls for collective action to protect children in the digital world

Chennai : As children's lives become increasingly intertwined with the digital world, Child Rights and You (CRY) called for collective action to make cyberspace safer for children during the National Study Conference 2026 on "Youth Volunteering and Social Work: Building a Sustainable and Shared Future", organised by Madras Christian College, Chennai, on Monday. The conference brought together students, social work professionals, volunteers and other stakeholders to discuss emerging issues affecting children and young people.

Speaking during the session on Youth Digital Action, John Roberts, Regional Director – South, CRY, said technology had brought numerous opportunities but had also increased the risks faced by users. "Online risks and threats are growing, and nobody – irrespective of age, gender or social class – is immune to these risks. Particularly, children are more vulnerable," he said, highlighting the growing complexity of the digital risk landscape.

John said CRY has been taking up pressing child-rights issues through campaigns and had launched its national campaign on online safety this year. He said the campaign encourages children, parents and communities to pause and think before taking any action online. He added that the campaign is being taken across 23 states, reaching schools and children, working with parents and engaging with police, corporate organisations and communities.

Nearly 20 fold increase in Cybercrime against children

Presenting CRY's analysis of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, Jayakaran, AGM – Programmes, CRY, said registered cybercrime cases against children had increased nearly 20-fold between 2017 and 2024, rising from 88 cases in 2017 to 1,902 in 2023, before declining to 1,753 in 2024. He noted that despite the decline in 2024, the number remained nearly 20 times the 2017 figure. Jayakaran also pointed to the nature of the offences recorded in the data, saying that 60–80% of registered cybercrime cases against children since 2020 involved child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Highlighting the situation in South India, Jayakaran said that 944 of the 1,902 cybercrime cases against children registered nationally in 2023 – almost one in two – came from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh combined. He noted that the combined figure for the five states fell to 441 in 2024, alongside the broader national decline, but cautioned that NCRB figures represent cases reported and registered by the police and therefore cannot, by themselves, establish the true extent of online harm to children.

THE EARTHSHOT PRIZE AND SERUM INSTITUTE OF INDIA JOIN FORCES TO BACK CLIMATE INNOVATION AT MUMBAI SUMMIT 2026

Bengaluru : The Earthshot Prize has announced Serum Institute of India as a principal sponsor of its 2026 Summit in Mumbai, bringing together two organisations committed to supporting innovation with the potential to improve lives at scale. The collaboration will support a global gathering of environmental innovators, investors, philanthropists and business leaders focused on accelerating solutions to the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

The Earthshot Prize Summit Mumbai 2026 will be a key part of the programme, creating opportunities for leaders across sectors to build collaborations and mobilise support for environmental solutions.

Jason Knauf, CEO of The Earthshot Prize, said:"India has an extraordinary track record of turning ambitious ideas into solutions that improve lives at scale. As we bring The Earthshot Prize to Mumbai for the first time, we are delighted to welcome Serum Institute of India as a principal sponsor of the Summit. Their global experience in taking breakthrough solutions from innovation to impact reflects the ambition at the heart of The Earthshot Prize. Together, we want to help environmental innovators connect with the people collaborations and support that can help their solutions go further, faster."

Adar C. Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India, said: "Some of the world's greatest challenges can only be addressed when bold ideas are backed with the resources and collaborations needed to make them accessible at scale.

Lotus Cars India Brings an Exclusive Experience for Brand Audiences to Bengaluru with Showcase of the Eletre and Emeya



Bengaluru : Lotus Cars India has announced a nationwide customer and prospect engagement brand experience that will bring its award-winning electric performance vehicles, the Lotus Eletre and Lotus Emeya, closer to customers across some of India's most significant luxury automobile markets, with Bengaluru among the key stops on the South India leg of the tour.

As part of this multi-city tour, Lotus Cars India will host an exclusive brand experience in Bengaluru from 3rd till 5th October 2026, for its prospective customers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, luxury lifestyle consumers and automotive enthusiasts. The Bengaluru leg is part of a wider South and East India tour that started in Chennai and travelled through Coimbatore, Thrissur, Kochi, Calicut, Mangaluru and is now travelling to Bengaluru, with a parallel West India tour covering markets including Pune, Kolhapur.

High Court Takes Exception to Delay in Investigation of Criminal Case Filed by Education Department Against Fake Educational Institution

Bengaluru : The Karnataka High Court has taken exception to the delay in completing the investigation and filing a chargesheet in connection with a complaint lodged by the Education Department against Jamia Muhammadiya Education Society, Mumbai, which runs Jamia Muhammadiya Mansoora Institution.

The complaint was filed at the Kothanur Police Station on January 27 this year, alleging that fake documents had been submitted and seeking action against the institution. The High Court orally directed the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner to issue appropriate instructions to the Kothanur Police to complete the investigation and submit a report.



The direction was issued by a Division Bench comprising Justice Jayant Banerjee and Justice Tara Vithasta Ganjoo while hearing a petition filed by Abdul Hameed Pasha.

Observing that the investigation had been taking an excessively long time, the Bench said that the Bengaluru Police Commissioner should issue appropriate directions to the Kothanur Police to avoid unnecessary delay. The investigation should be completed and the report submitted at the earliest, the court said.

The Bench further directed the Additional Government Advocate to bring the order to the notice of the Police Commissioner without any delay.

C.N. Govindappa, who was then the Block Education Officer of the School Education Department, had filed a criminal complaint at the Kothanur Police Station in January seeking action against the educational institution under Sections 318(4), 336 and 340 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

According to the report obtained from the concerned Investigating Officer regarding the progress of the investigation, the investigation is still underway and the final report is yet to be submitted. No chargesheet has so far been filed in connection with the criminal complaint.

The Bench therefore adjourned the hearing to November 17 and directed that the status of the investigation be placed before the court.

Regarding the contempt petition filed against Jamia Muhammadiya Education Society, Mumbai, the Bench observed that consideration of such a petition was a matter within the discretion of the court. The Bench said it was dismissing the petition filed by the petitioner alleging that the respondents had wilfully disobeyed the orders of the court.

Meanwhile, the Department of Minority Welfare has been fully cooperating with the investigation into the alleged fraud involving Rs.5 lakh obtained illegally in the name of an unregistered madrasa.

CMR National Art Camp 'Brushes and Beyond 2026' Brings Together 17 Artists from Across India



Bengaluru : The CMR Group of Institutions today inaugurated the 7th edition of the CMR National Art Camp, 'Brushes and Beyond 2026', at the CMR University Lakeside Campus. The 12-day camp brings together 17 artists from across the country and celebrates India's diverse artistic traditions and contemporary creativity.The camp was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal, internationally acclaimed art historian, author and academician, and Prof. V.B. Nanda Gopal, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Family Businesses, along with other dignitaries. Prof. Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal also unveiled the artworks created by CMR University students as part of the camp. Prof. Muralidhar Reddy, Nitara, CoE, CMR University, welcomed the artists and guests.The participating artists are working in painting, sculpture, woodcut printing, mixed media and textiles, reflecting the range of India's artistic traditions and present-day expressions.Addressing the gathering, Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal said, "Art is interdisciplinary and draws inspiration from society, culture and the world around us. Art camps provide artists with the space to explore ideas, connect with diverse perspectives and transform creativity into meaningful works of art."

Jayadeep K.R. Reddy, Pro Chancellor, CMR University, said, "Creativity is the essence of innovation, and art is one of its purest expressions. Such platforms inspire students across disciplines to explore new ideas and perspectives."In his presidential address, Dr. K.C. Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.), Chairman, CMR Group of Institutions and CMR University, and former Rajya Sabha member, said, "This art camp brings together artists from different parts of the country and provides a platform for creativity, growth and collaboration. The artworks created here reflect the artists' journeys and the evolution of their ideas and creativity."

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.

Corporate Office : Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400 028

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Brief details of secured assets	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1.	Santhosh Kumar R/ Athira V O/ Ramabhadran R/ TRI-NHL-000175/ Trivandrum	All that piece and parcel of property Re sy no: 176/2-1, extent in ares 1.21 ares, Kottukal Panchayath, Vengannoor Village, Neyyatinkara Taluk, Trivandrum District, Kerala- 695 501 Bounded as follow- East- Manikandan West- Shibu Plot North- Vijaya Mohanan nair South- Road .	25-Jun-2026/ Rs. 11,16,414/- Rupees Eleven Lakh Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred Fourteen Only.	29-Sep-2026

Date: October 02, 2026
Place: Trivandrum

Sd/- Authorized Officer,
Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 028

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower/s (the "said Borrower"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s issued to them that are also given below.

In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower to pay to MHIL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest at 2% p.m. as detailed in the said Demand Notices, from the dates mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrowers. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to MHIL by the said Borrowers respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor/ Loan Account No./Branch	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
1.	Saneesh Ph/ Swapna Vijayan/ Baby/ KOC-NHL-000482/ Kochi	Rs.13,20,491/- Rupees Thirteen Lakh Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety One Only.	26-Aug-2026	All That Piece and Parcel of Property Having An Extent of 01.44 Ares, Comprised In Re. Sy. Block No. 5, Re. Sy. No. 325/19 (Old Sy. No. 151/16A), Situated At Arookutty Village, Together With All Rights, Easements and Appurtenances Attached Thereto, Bounded As Follows: North: Property of Majeed; South: Road; East: Property of Sastyappan; West: Property of Salim.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to MHIL as aforesaid, MHIL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of MHIL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: October 02, 2026
Place: Kochi

Sd/-Authorized Officer,
Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited

EDITORIAL

Dr. Satyavan Saurabh's famous couplets released, sharp satire on everything from democracy to broken relationships

Literary World – A special video collection of famous couplets of renowned writer Dr. Satyavan Saurabh has been released on YouTube, which presents a mirror of the current social, political and human reality.

In this collection, Dr. Saurabh has, through couplets, made serious reflections and sharp satire on burning issues like democracy, justice system, politics, social inequality, corruption, increasing distance in the name of religion, women's safety and the ironies of modern life.

In his couplets, the poet expresses concern for democracy, while at other times, he expresses the pain of waiting for justice. These couplets also clearly reflect the pain of the deserted village square, the growing distance in relationships, and the erosion of human sensibilities.

This work is not just a satire, but a meaningful effort to show the mirror to the society and inspire introspection.

This presentation by writer Dr. Satyavan Saurabh has become a topic of discussion among literature lovers.

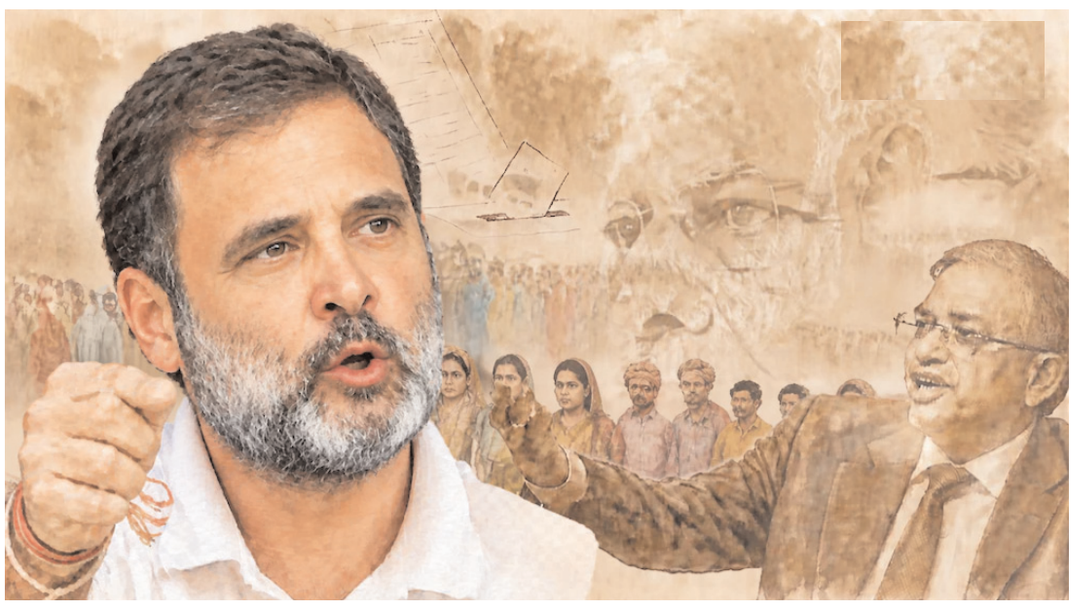
This collection of Dr. Satyavan Saurabh's famous couplets reflects the social, political, and human realities of our times. These couplets offer sharp satire and profound reflections on issues such as democracy, the justice system, politics, social inequality, fracturing relationships, the changing landscape of villages, women's safety, the growing distance in the name of religion, corruption, and the ironies of modern life.

Through these couplets, the poet raises a number of burning questions, ranging from the system to society and family. Some express concern for democracy, some await justice, some lament the desolate village square, and some lament the growing distance in relationships and the erosion of human sensibilities.

Why Doesn't Congress Boycott If Polls Are "Fixed"?

ANSWER LIES BEYOND RAHUL GANDHI'S "DISTRACTION" QUIP

AARISH CHHABRA



If you say the umpire is fixed, why play? Sounds simple enough. Only, it isn't. For months now, Rahul Gandhi has argued that the Election Commission of India is fixed. He has alleged "vote chori" from Karnataka to Haryana to Maharashtra, carried the charge on a yatra across Bihar, and recently told Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar to "turn approver", claiming there's a case of voter-list manipulation across recent elections. "Today elections are fundamentally broken, and the laws passed by the Parliament thus elected could be seen as illegal, because the vote has been destroyed," said the Leader of Opposition, claiming vindication after The Indian Express revealed dissent within the EC. The EC's clarifications later triggered an instant Congress response: "Fundamental questions remain unanswered." But a fundamental question came Rahul Gandhi's way, too, at his 'gotcha' press conference. Will the Congress boycott the elections? Rahul first gave a précis of his arguments. Then he responded to the b-word with a d-word. "Distraction mein nahin jaaunga. I will avoid the distraction. But thank you," he quipped. Beyond the quip, the Congress-led opposition parties' INDIA bloc has now announced marches and rallies. "Our collective opinion is that [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi, [Home Minister] Amit Shah and Gyanesh Kumar stole elections. We are not going to take this lying down," Rahul said after a meeting of the bloc on September 30. Nothing announced involved a boycott. From 'Different Matter' To 'Distraction' The starkest demand for a boycott has come from outside the political Opposition, from the Cockroach Janta Party, the Gen-Z youth protest movement whose Jantar Mantar sit-in led to the education minister's resignation in July. "When you continue to participate in rigged elections, you legitimise these elections and help maintain the illusion that they are free and fair," CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke wrote on X. Rahul Gandhi and the Congress have side-stepped the idea for at least over a year. In July 2025, when asked if a boycott was an option, the Congress's Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru said, "All options are being discussed." Rahul Gandhi said the EC was not doing its job. On August 7, 2025, when asked directly about a boycott, Rahul Gandhi said, "What action opposition parties will take, how we will go about it in the coming days, that is a different matter." Not much could be gleaned outright. The next month, Rahul Gandhi said some more: "My work is to participate in the democratic system. My work is not to protect the democratic system. That is the work of the institutions in India. But they are not doing it." In the Bihar Assembly election that November, the RJD-Congress combine lost massively to the BJP-led NDA. An Opposition Argument Two Opposition leaders have now argued that Rahul Gandhi has not articulated. Gurdeep Singh Sappal, a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee who coordinates the party president's office, wrote, "A boycott is desertion, and desertion is not resistance." He argued that a party that contests elections has polling agents in every booth and the standing to challenge results in court. "A boycott does not stop the theft. It removes the witnesses," he wrote. Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien replied to Dipke on X with a formula: "Opposition boycotting elections = BJP wins all seats." What Boycotts Actually Do Researchers and think tank papers say context matters. A 2010 policy paper by Matthew Frankel of the Brookings Institution assessed 171 boycotts, many across South America and the Middle East, between 1990 and 2009. He found only about 4 per cent of the boycotts achieved a positive outcome in his view. He called for a 'Threaten but Participate' approach, also the title of the paper. In Bangladesh, Khaleda Zia's BNP boycotted the 2014 elections, which meant Sheikh Hasina's Awami League governed for another decade before it was overthrown by protests, followed by elections in which Zia's son became prime minister, as Hasina and her League were thrown out of the contest. Bangladeshi political scientist Ali Riaz, who later chaired the interim government's Constitution Reform Commission, argued after the 2024 elections that the opposition party's boycott did expose the Hasina government's brutal methods, but it fell short because it failed to build a common platform or mobilise people on the streets. He essentially argued that only unity in the opposition ranks can make a boycott meaningful. There have been some instances in India as well, history professor and political commentator Harjeshwar Pal Singh told NDTV. "In Punjab in 1992, amid militancy and after nearly five years of President's Rule, most Akali Dal factions stayed out of the Assembly elections," he recalled. Voter turnout fell below 24 per cent, and the Congress won. "The Akali Dal of the Badals handed the field to the Congress, but eventually returned to power in 1997," he noted. He saw it as a loss-now, gain-later outcome, but one in which the losses first "nearly put the Akalis out of business". He also cited pre-Independence India as an example of bargaining: "The Congress boycotted the councils the British set up in 1920, and returned to contest them within a few years. It threatened to boycott those elections at first, and then managed to get some concessions in return after the 1937 polls too." Such boycotts in post-1947 India have mainly been in states affected by insurgencies. No national party has boycotted a Lok Sabha election. Even in 1937, Jawaharlal Nehru spoke in favour of participating in elections under British rule. "There can be only two forces in the country, one representing the Indian National Congress, and the other, the government," he said in a speech at Bombay on February 9, 1937. What Law Says, And What's Likely Next Nehru aside, there's always a cricket analogy, too, for almost everything in India and the wider subcontinent. In 1978, at Sahiwal in Pakistan, Indian captain Bishan Singh Bedi called his batsmen off the field in protest over bouncers the umpires would not call as dangerous play or wide. With 23 runs left to get off 14 balls, eight wickets in hand, victory was possible. Bedi chose a boycott. The scorebook recorded a Pakistan win. Indian election law works much the same way. An election is valid no matter how many people vote or don't. If there's one candidate, that person is declared elected without a poll. Asked about the cricket analogy, Harjeshwar Pal Singh cited the lack of ideological drive on the ground even after leaders' assertions from podiums. "The question is: will candidates or leaders leave the field even if the captain asks them to?" he said. For instance, if Rahul Gandhi were to announce a boycott, leaders at the constituency level might still enter the fray, or join or form another party that's participating, he argued. "And not all non-BJP parties may be on board," he noted. The professor further made a case for participating, "Even if one were to buy the argument that the BJP allows the Congress to win in some states where the BJP has no standing -- or 'to keep up a veneer of fairness' -- it does give Rahul Gandhi's party hold over some power. That is important if you want to do be relevant in fundraising, and be able to run the party, even as a movement." Affirming that people's opinion holds the ultimate power even beyond elections alone, he said, "Public opinion can be rallied if the Congress can carry out an outreach properly. Challenges to the Modi government are already emerging in some spheres of public opinion. Something's gotta give, as they say." The Election Commission, meanwhile, has said internal objections were part of its decision-making.

ARE SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE REUNITING AGAIN AFTER 10 YEARS?

ADITI BHADURI



Are we witnessing a rapprochement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)?

It certainly seems so. On Tuesday, the UAE's Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, Mansour bin Zayed, met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, which included Prince Khalid bin Salman, the Saudi Minister of Defence, Ali Al Shamsi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for National Security; Ali Al Neyadi, Chairman of the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority and others.

The UAE's main national daily, The National, described the meeting thus: "The visit reflects the deep and enduring partnership between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, which have maintained close political, economic and security co-operation. High-level exchanges between the two countries are a regular feature of Gulf diplomacy, with senior officials frequently travelling between the two capitals to co-ordinate positions on matters of shared concern." It would seem as if the two have been best-friends-forever; there was no allusion to the strain that the bilateral relationship had come under due to divergent views on a range of issues, including the one plaguing the Saudis currently the most: Yemen. Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE had once been partners in Yemen as they intervened to prop up the government of President Abdur Hadi Mansour against the Iran-backed Houthis. Over the years, however, both Gulf powers came to back different factions in Yemen, with the Saudis backing the Yemen government, and the UAE supporting the Southern Transitional Council (STC). Once the UAE felt that the southern regions, including the port of Hodeidah, were secure, it signalled its withdrawal from the war, while the Saudis wanted to secure all of Yemen from the Houthis.

Differences had piled up on other subjects too - on Sudan, on Iran, and even on the economic front, with their competing visions for future prosperity, with the UAE taking the big bold step of exiting from the Saudi-led Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Another factor has been regarding the normalisation of ties with Israel. While the UAE became the first Israeli partner under the Abraham Accords, the Saudis held back. Now, under the same Houthi threat, Saudi Arabia preferred to turn to Pakistan and not long ago rival Turkey, but not to Israel.

IS THAT ABOUT TO CHANGE NOW?

Interestingly, bin Zayed's Saudi visit came almost on the heels of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu 's visit to Abu Dhabi on Sunday, September 27. While officially it was to discuss bilateral ties, Israeli media announced that officials from other Arab states, including Saudi Arabia were also present at the meeting, which had reportedly also discussed regional escalation and creating a regional defence architecture against "shared threats", with a specific focus on Iran and the Houthis. Indeed, the Kingdom has seen unprecedented attacks earlier by Iran, which targeted American bases on its territory, and then by Iran-backed Iraqi militias, and now the Yemeni Ansarallah, also majorly backed by Iran. While Iran has inflicted major economic costs on Gulf countries, including on Saudi Arabia, not only through military action but also by closing the Strait of Hormuz, the Houthis have been targeting both Saudi shipping as well as sensitive and strategic infrastructure such as the Petroline oil pipeline. The Saudis are back to facing the same nightmare they had suffered just a decade ago in Yemen, from which they had extricated themselves in 2022 with great difficulty. Now they are back, threatening not just the Kingdom but others, too. Earlier this year, the Saudis established a multinational maritime defence alliance to "enhance maritime security, protect shared interests in international sea lanes, and prevent their exploitation as a tool of political or economic pressure".

'LIES, DAMNED LIES, STATISTICS':

ON THE CONTROVERSY AROUND INDIA'S GDP GROWTH FIGURES



SHASHI THAROOR



I am not an economist, so it was with some bemusement that I watched the debate surrounding India's economic growth figures spilling into the public square. When the government announced a headline-grabbing 7.8% real GDP growth rate for the first quarter (Q1) of 2026, the figure was met not with universal celebration, but with deep suspicion among independent economists, global financial institutions, and everyday citizens. It's clear that the debate is less about a single figure than about a decade-long erosion of trust in official statistics, and the stark mismatch between high-growth figures and the lived economic realities of ordinary Indians. While the Q1 2026 data provided the spark, the underlying kindling has been dry for nearly ten years. Scepticism regarding India's official growth metrics is not a recent phenomenon. It can be traced back at least to the aftermath of the 2016 demonetisation policy and the subsequent rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), then to the controversy over the Covid fatality numbers, the resignation of senior government statisticians, and now the eruption over GDP growth. Over the past decade, eminent independent thinkers, including two who have worked with the BJP government, former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian and former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, have repeatedly raised red flags regarding how output is measured. Global bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have similarly downgraded the credibility quotient of Indian data. This trust deficit was further deepened in 2024 when the government abruptly dissolved its advisory body of statisticians and academics, leaving official releases without the crucial stamp of independent oversight.

CHANGING BENCHMARKS

At the core of the current controversy lies a major recalculation: the transition from an older benchmark data series (base year 2011–12) to a new series (base year 2022–23). On the surface, shifting to a more recent base year is standard statistical practice designed to capture structural changes in an evolving economy. However, critics say that the manner in which this transition was executed created a statistical optical illusion. To calculate growth percentages, statisticians compare current economic output against the output of the same period in the previous year. In releasing the Q1 2026 numbers, the government retroactively slashed its estimate for the previous year's baseline (2024–25 GDP) by roughly ?12.7 trillion. By shrinking the previous year's denominator, the jump to this year's numerator looks artificially large. Using the reduced baseline, nominal growth appeared to be an impressive 10.3%, yielding a real GDP growth figure of 7.8%. Had the baseline not been retroactively revised downward, the critics argue that nominal growth for Q1 2026 would have stood at a modest 2.6%. However, official statistics apply the revised baseline across both periods to maintain methodology consistency, resulting in a nominal growth rate of 10.3% and a real GDP growth figure of 7.8%. Whether viewed as a necessary statistical re-benchmarking or an advantageous base effect, the downward revision of the prior year's denominator significantly aided the headline growth numbers. To measure real economic growth, economists must subtract inflation using a tool called the GDP deflator (to convert nominal growth into real, inflation-adjusted growth). Calculating an accurate deflator requires a Producer Price Index (PPI), which measures the wholesale prices manufacturers actually charge and pay for inputs. India, however, has lacked a functional PPI for two decades. When adjusted using the official GDP deflator, actual economic expansion would have been close to zero.

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SAMSUNG INTRODUCES GALAXY TAB S12 SERIES

The Ultimate Productivity Powerhouse Built for Growth



SEOUL, Korea – Sept. 30, 2026 Packed into a remarkably slim, durable design with sustained peak performance, long-lasting battery life and the latest Galaxy AI, the Galaxy Tab S12 series empowers users to push their boundaries without limitations

– Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. today unveiled the Galaxy Tab S12 series — Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra and Tab S12+ — delivering Samsung's most capable and versatile tablet experience yet. Packing breakthrough performance, long-lasting battery life, and the latest Galaxy AI into Galaxy Tab's signature ultra-thin design, the new lineup turns complex workflows into effortless, everyday achievements whether it's mastering skills, pursuing career goals or exploring creative passions. Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra and Tab S12+ feature immersive displays and come bundled with the ergonomically designed S Pen for effortless note-taking and precise editing. With easy access to professional-grade apps and versatile accessories, users can pursue their passions and progress toward their goals with ease. Combining portability with professional-grade power, the Galaxy Tab S12 series gives users instant access to powerful capabilities whenever inspiration strikes.

"The Galaxy Tab S12 series is designed for people who are constantly exploring new ideas, developing new skills and bringing their ambitions to life," said Jay Kim, Executive Vice President and Head of Customer Experience Office, Mobile eXperience (MX) Business at Samsung Electronics. "Built with industry-leading hardware, the Galaxy Tab S12 series pairs an expansive screen with the power of Galaxy AI — removing friction from complex tasks so users can stay focused on achieving impactful results."

■ PEAK PERFORMANCE IN AN ULTRA-THIN DESIGN

The Galaxy Tab S12 series combines powerful performance and long-lasting battery life into a thin and light design, making it easy for users to achieve more, wherever ambition takes them. At a remarkably slim 5.1mm, Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra is Samsung's thinnest Galaxy Tab, while delivering the most powerful performance of any Galaxy Tab to date, supporting productive use throughout the day.

Indian stocks give negative 1-year returns while global markets rally

Highlights

■ In one year, from October 1 to September 30, the Nifty 50 was down 8.9 per cent, while global indices such as the United States' S&P 500, Nasdaq, Japan's Nikkei, South Korea's KOSPI, and the United Kingdom's FTSE recorded substantial gains in the same period.



Indian stocks have struggled to deliver positive returns over the past year even as several major global markets recorded strong gains. In one year, from October 1 to September 30, the Nifty 50 was down 8.9 per cent, while global indices such as the United States' S&P 500, Nasdaq, Japan's Nikkei, South Korea's KOSPI, and the United Kingdom's FTSE recorded substantial gains in the same period. The weak performance of Indian equities has come amid foreign investor selling, geopolitical uncertainty, concerns over earnings growth, and fluctuations in crude oil prices. Global markets outperform Indian stock market indexes Recent market data shows a significant difference between Indian and some overseas equity markets. Over one year, the Sensex declined by 10.4 per cent, while other indexes spiked. The following are the returns given by various major indexes globally: Why Indian indices have lagged Foreign investment flows have been one of the major factors affecting Indian equities. During FY26, foreign portfolio investors withdrew nearly USD 19.7 billion from Indian equities. Higher crude prices, geopolitical risks, and uncertainty over US interest rates have also affected investor sentiment. Rising bond yields in the US and other developed economies have added pressure on Indian equity valuations and made it more difficult for emerging markets to attract foreign capital. September adds more pressure In September 2026, Indian stock markets faced another sharp decline. During the month, Nifty 50 fell 6.1 per cent, while the Sensex declined 5.8 per cent as foreign investors sold USD 2.7 billion worth of Indian equities during the month. During the month, the IT sector was among the weakest-performing major sectors. On the other hand, technology and artificial intelligence-related companies have been an important factor behind the strong performance of some overseas markets. The US and South Korea, in particular, have benefited from their significant exposure to AI-related businesses. For various reasons, Indian stock market benchmark indices have struggled to generate positive returns over recent periods while several overseas markets have recorded strong gains. Weak performance of Indian equities has come amid foreign investor selling, geopolitical uncertainty, concerns over earnings growth, and fluctuations in crude oil prices.

STOCK MARKETS DECLINE IN EARLY TRADE



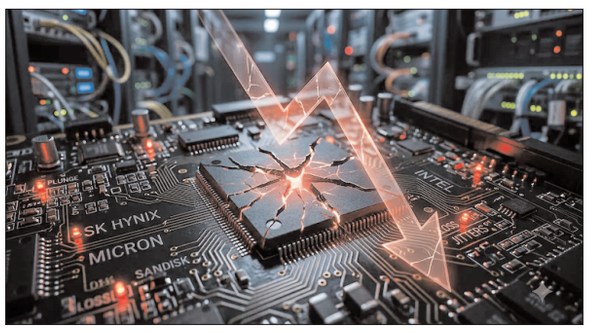
Mumbai: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty drifted lower in early trade on Thursday, October 1, as relentless foreign fund outflows weighed on investors' sentiment, although cooling crude oil prices that traded below the USD 100 per barrel mark cushioned the fall. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 215 points to 72,257.30 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty was down 107.25 points to 22,518.90. From the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, UltraTech Cement, Bharat Electronics, Eternal and Asian Paints were the major laggards. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services and Axis Bank were among the winners. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 10,148.41 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. "The sustained FII selling became intense during the last two trading days when the FIIs sold equity for a total of Rs 20,128 crore. With the US 10-year bond yield rising further to 5.3 per cent, FIIs may continue to sell. An apparent contradiction in the FII activity is that even while selling through the exchanges, they have been consistently investing through the primary market and also buying expensive mid and small-caps," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.92 per cent lower at USD 97.13 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI and Japan's Nikkei 225 index quoted higher. US markets ended mostly lower on Wednesday. "The domestic market remains under pressure after extending its decline, with September marking the Nifty's steepest monthly fall since March. Foreign selling and elevated global borrowing costs continue to weigh on sentiment, although the easing in crude prices and softer US inflation provide some counterweight," Hariselvan Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a research analyst firm, said. Brent crude has eased below the USD 100 mark, offering some relief after the recent surge in energy prices, he added.

23% Indians Believe Social Media Is 'Bad' For Democracy; Lower Than Global Average: Pew Survey



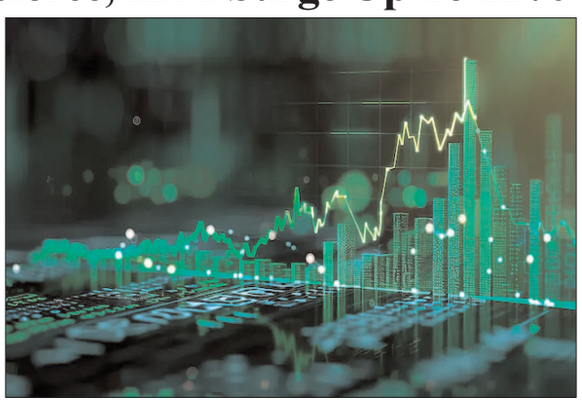
Only 23% of Indians say social media has been more of a bad thing for democracy, putting India well below the global median of 35%, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. The findings show that Indian respondents remain considerably more positive about the role of social media in democracy. About 66% of Indians said social media has been more of a good thing, while 23% took a negative view. Pew's Spring 2026 Global Attitudes Survey covered 45,658 people across 37 countries, with interviews conducted between February 8 and May 13, 2026. The research examined how people view social media's broader impact on democracy and political life. India's 23% negative assessment was among the lower shares recorded in the Asia-Pacific region. Thailand and Singapore recorded 21% and 22%, respectively, while the Philippines stood at 23%. By comparison, 43% of respondents in Indonesia and Japan viewed social media as bad for democracy, while Australia recorded 52%. At the global level, 35% was the median share saying social media has been bad for democracy, compared with 55% who said it has been good. The most negative assessments came from the Netherlands, France, the US and Germany, where 70%, 65%, 64% and 61% respectively described social media as bad for democracy. However, the survey also highlights concerns among Indians about the wider effects of online platforms. 62% of Indian respondents said social media and internet access have made people easier to manipulate with false information and rumours, while 51% said they have made people more divided in their political opinions. At the same time, 66% of Indians said these technologies have made people more informed about current events, and 55% said they have helped people have a more meaningful voice in politics. The findings point to a mixed assessment in India: social media is widely viewed as beneficial for democratic participation and access to information, even as concerns remain over misinformation and political divisions. In general, people in wealthier nations such as the U.S. are more likely to believe social media is harming democracy. The seven nations where half or more say social media has been bad for democracy are also among the wealthiest surveyed: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the U.S. However, Israel and Singapore are exceptions – relatively few in these two high-income countries believe social media is bad for democracy. In nations with lower gross domestic products per capita, people tend to be less negative about social media. For example, in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, the Philippines and Thailand, roughly three-in-four or more say it has been good for democracy. In most countries polled, this positive view is predominant. Across the 37 nations surveyed, a median of 55% think social media has had a positive impact on democracy, while a median of 35% say it has had a negative one. Young adults in most nations are especially likely to believe social media has a positive effect on democracy. One of the largest age gaps is found in the U.K., where 60% of adults ages 18 to 34 say social media's influence on democracy has been good, compared with just 31% of those ages 50 and older. In the U.S., 44% of adults younger than 35 hold this view, compared with 28% of people 50 and older. Why do so many people think online platforms have been good for democracy Part of the answer may be that these platforms give people a voice at time when many feel voiceless.

Micron Falls 3%, Intel, AMD Slip As Chips Stock Tumble After Accenture-Led Software Rebound



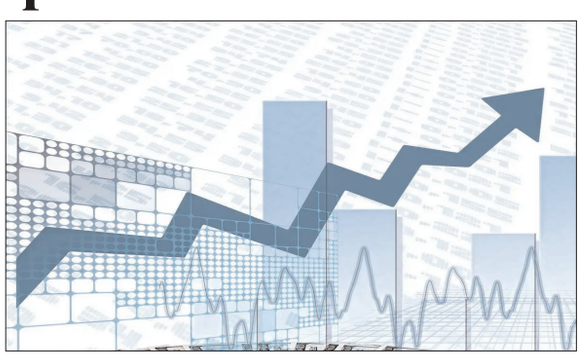
US chip stocks edged lower on Thursday as investors booked profits in some of Wall Street's biggest artificial intelligence winners following a record-breaking second-quarter rally. The weakness in semiconductor stocks came even as several companies continue to benefit from strong demand for AI infrastructure and data-centre chips. Investors appeared to be taking some gains off the table after the sharp run-up in technology shares. Micron Technology was among the biggest decliners, falling 2.79% to $1,035.40. Intel declined 1.04% to $118.85 after slipping around 2% in the previous session, while Advanced Micro Devices fell 0.75% to $607. SanDisk was relatively resilient, trading 0.17% higher at $1,741.85 after declining 0.75% in the previous session. The moves came as the broader US market also turned lower after opening in positive territory. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.41%, while the S&P 500 declined 0.19%. The Nasdaq Composite was down 0.09%. Micron has been one of the major beneficiaries of the AI investment boom, but its latest earnings beat was not enough to prevent profit-taking. The memory-chip maker reported blockbuster results, with revenue quadrupling in the latest quarter as demand for memory products used in AI infrastructure remained strong.

Accenture Results Spark IT Sector Rally; Cognizant, Salesforce, IBM Surge Up To 12%



Accenture's better-than-expected fourth-quarter results and upbeat fiscal 2027 outlook triggered a broad rally across IT stocks in US on Thursday, with Cognizant, IBM, Salesforce and Indian IT stocks gaining sharply. Cognizant Technology Solutions led the move, rising 11.8%. IBM jumped 6.06%, while Salesforce gained 3.85%. The positive sentiment extended to Indian IT stocks listed in the US. Infosys ADRs climbed 9%, while Wipro ADRs rose 10%. Nasdaq-100 was trading 0.48% higher giving a positive start for technology stocks on Wall Street this month. Accenture Shares Jump Accenture shares surged after the consulting and technology services major reported stronger-than-expected fourth-quarter results and provided a positive outlook for fiscal 2027. The stock was quoted at around $223.65 on Thursday at 9:40 EDT, compared with the previous close of $183.37. At that level, the shares were up about 22%, although earlier pre-market indications had shown the stock gaining as much as 20%. The sharp move came after investors responded to the company's revenue beat, earnings growth and fiscal 2027 guidance. Accenture reported fourth-quarter revenue of $18.7 billion, up 6% in US dollar terms and 7% in local currency. The figure was ahead of the estimated $18.04 billion. For the full fiscal year, revenue stood at $74.2 billion, up $4.5 billion, or 6%, from the previous year. The company also reported strong profitability. Fourth-quarter GAAP diluted EPS came in at $3.29, up 46% from a year earlier. Adjusted EPS increased 9% from the year-ago quarter. For fiscal 2026, GAAP diluted EPS rose 12% to $13.56, while adjusted EPS increased 8% to $13.97. Accenture's fourth-quarter bookings stood at $22.2 billion, up 4% in US dollars and 5% in local currency. Full-year bookings reached $84.5 billion. Accenture expects fiscal 2027 revenue to grow 3% to 6% in local currency. The company expects fiscal 2027 GAAP diluted EPS of $14.39 to $14.81, representing growth of 6% to 9%. It also expects to return at least $9.5 billion in cash to shareholders during the year.

Asian shares mostly rise amid market optimism about AI



Tokyo: Asian shares mostly rose in early trading on Thursday, October 1, amid investor interest in technology-related issues, despite ongoing worries about the war in Iran. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 jumped 2.4 per cent in morning trading to 68,355.81. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 1.7 per cent to 8,638.10. South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.5 per cent to 6,873.06. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.4 per cent to 24,613.27, while the Shanghai Composite gained 0.3 per cent to 3,842.19. In Tokyo trading, issues expected to get a boost from the solid demand in computer chips and AI-related growth have been rising in recent sessions, including Advantest Corp., Tokyo Electron and SoftBank Group Corp. US stocks mostly fell Wednesday, despite indications that the US economy remains strong. On Wall Street, the S&P 500 slipped 0.3 per cent to close out its third losing month in the last four. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 443 points, or 0.9 per cent, and the Nasdaq composite added 0.2 per cent. The report that said inflation wasn't as bad across the United States last month as economists expected. It said the cost of living for US consumers was 3.4 per cent higher overall in August than a year earlier. That was not as high as the 3.7 per cent inflation rate that economists expected, even if it remained worse than the Fed's 2 per cent target.

In energy trading, benchmark US crude lost 0.56 per cent to USD 89.91 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 0.35 per cent to USD 97.69 a barrel. Oil prices have been swinging wildly in recent months amid uncertainty about when the war with Iran will allow the flow of crude to be fully restored. Iranian officials indicated Wednesday they have received an official US response to Tehran's latest proposal to end the seven-month war. The officials did not say what the latest response contained and whether it was a rejection. US President Donald Trump publicly rejected Iran's proposal just days earlier to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within a week if the US meets certain conditions. The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which is the centrepiece of the bond market, rose to 5.29 per cent, up from 5.26 per cent late Tuesday, and it's back to where it was more than two decades ago in 2002.

Netanyahu says flight attacker 'underwent Islamist radical indoctrination'



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says investigations suggest the man who stabbed his fellow pilot and tried to take over a flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv had undergone "Islamist radical indoctrination". The Flydubai plane plunged more than 17,000ft (5,200m) two hours into its journey on Wednesday, before passengers and crew overpowered the attacker and retook control to land safely. Speaking to Fox News, Netanyahu also said it was looking "very likely" that the attacker, who he said was an Omani national, "was going to down the plane". Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) state news agency reports investigations have begun there to determine "whether the incident was linked to any terrorist activity or purpose". The co-pilot is currently being questioned in Saudi Arabia, where the plane made an emergency landing. However UAE officials say they have jurisdiction over the incident because the aircraft on which the attack took place is registered there and flies under its flag. Netanyahu told Fox that once the attacker had been subdued and tied up by passengers and crew, he was "calling out to the aircrew 'kill me, kill me', so it's clear he was suicidal that's not a question". "And with all the passengers in there, and if you couple that with what I just told you about the Islamist tendencies, that radicalisation that were found in his background, I think ... that'll give us a pretty good clue but again I don't make final conclusions yet but that's the indications we have now." The prime minister was also asked earlier on the same network whether there was an indication if Iran was involved, he replied: "It's too early to say". The attacker was arrested in Saudi Arabia and is expected to be transferred to the UAE, Netanyahu said. Both Netanyahu and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the stabbed pilot, Indian national Capt Smit Machchhar was a "hero". India's ambassador to the UAE Deepak Mittal visited Captain Machhar in hospital on Thursday, the Indian Mission confirmed on social media, stating he was "in good health and recovering well". Preliminary findings from a separate Israeli investigation into the incident, suggest that the alleged attacker intended to crash the plane, an Israeli security source told BBC Arabic. The source said the investigation - led by Israel's intelligence agency Mossad - interviewed passengers after they arrived in Tel Aviv to establish what had happened on the plane. Flydubai's flight FZ1073, with more than 170 people on board, took off from Dubai International Airport in the UAE at 03:05 GMT (07:05 local time), en route to Ben Gurion Airport. Two hours later, the 17,000ft drop in altitude was reported on the plane tracking website Flightradar24 and minutes later the plane signaAviation, he said, was "never a childhood dream". When he was around 19, he joined a management course, planning to work for his family's business. But then he came across an aviation seminar and "the bug bit [him]", he added. Machchhar also spoke about how, when he wore his pilot's uniform, he was "no-nonsense" and thought "about work 100%". But unlike his younger days, he added, he now placed a greater value on having a healthy work-life balance and spending time with family. "Give personal life equal importance - it will help you fly longer," he advised. He also detailed challenges he had faced in the air, including when a passenger went into early labour and the crew worked together to ensure the baby was born safely. "In aviation terms, I was lucky to grow up with people who helped me be the pilot that I am today," he said, crediting senior pilots with teaching him how to face stressful situations. At the time of the conversation, Machchhar said that no plane he'd flown had needed to make an emergency landing. He had, however, faced medical emergencies and minor aircraft issues that had caused delays. He said delays were "not my problem. As long as you're walking out of the aircraft [safely], that's what I want." Indian social media has been awash with praise for Machchhar since his identity emerged, with commenters calling him a hero. Snippets from the podcast have also gone viral. lled an emergency code. At about 05:40, the plane - which had briefly entered Jordanian airspace - looped back into Saudi Arabia, where it later started its manual descent, landing safely at Tabuk Airport in the north west of Saudi. Flydubai has since suspended flights between Dubai and Tel Aviv as it carried out its own investigation into the incident. Israel's Transportation Ministry said the suspension aligns with Netanyahu's directive. Israeli airlines including El Al, Israir and Arkia said plans were in place to operate rescue flights from Dubai starting on Friday to bring back stranded passengers. The Transportation Ministry also said it sent an urgent request to Etihad Airlines to increase the number of flights between Abu Dhabi and Tel Aviv. The pilot who was stabbed on an Israel-bound flight on Wednesday has been identified as Indian national Capt Smit Machchhar. Machchhar was attacked by another pilot onboard a Flydubai flight bound for Tel Aviv, forcing the plane to divert to Saudi Arabia. The captain, who has been hailed as a "true hero" by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was taken to a hospital in Tabuk, a city in north-western Saudi Arabia.

RUSSIAN DISSIDENT GARRY KASPAROV SAYS US WARNED HIM OF DANGER TO HIS LIFE



An exiled Russian opposition figure living in the US says he was warned by American and Lithuanian security services that his life was in danger. Former chess world champion Garry Kasparov said he was one of two dissidents told to take precautions, which he had done. His comments come after the US Justice Department unsealed an indictment earlier this month charging five people who allegedly work for a network linked to the Kremlin with plotting attacks and murders in countries including the US, focusing on Russian dissidents and defectors. Kasparov wrote in his publication The Next Move that he had not been told explicitly that he and fellow Free Russia Forum co-founder Ivan Tyutrin were considered targets, but said both had been warned about their safety. Spanish newspaper El Mundo reported that it had obtained information that Kasparov, along with another Russian opposition figure, Ilya Ponomarev, had been warned about the plot over the summer by US authorities. Citing sources close to Kasparov, the paper said he had been placed under enhanced protection over the summer for the first time since he moved to the US. Kasparov wrote separately: "I will not stop and I will not hide, even if I thought it was possible to do so. "My family and I will not truly be safe as long as [Russian President Vladimir] Putin is in power in Russia - a circumstance shared by millions." Kasparov retired from competitive chess in 2005 to pursue a career in politics, founding movements that openly opposed Putin before fleeing Russia in 2013. He has not returned since. Russia classed him as a foreign agent following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and subsequently added him to a list of terrorists and extremists in 2024 - both categorisations he rejects. The other reported target, Ponomarev, was the only Russian MP who voted against the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and later went into exile in Ukraine. He declined to confirm or deny to the Moscow Times whether he had been tipped off about the alleged plot but said the allegations marked "a new level of escalation" by Russia. A network of individuals working for the Russian intelligence services has operated since at least 2024, the US Justice Department said. It said the so-called RIS Network had been conspiring and conducting attacks and murders on Russian dissidents and defectors around the world. Five alleged members of the network had been accused of operating "as part of a global assassination network that reached into the United States, attempting to recruit US citizens and foreigners to carry out killings at the behest of the Kremlin", Assistant Attorney General for national security John A Eisenberg said. The five people alleged to be responsible for organising the plots are Yuri Khrameev, Kirill Khrameev, Oemis Romagoza Durruthy, Yaidel Delgado Suarez and Angel Eduardo Castro. All five remain at large, the Justice Department said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said when the indictment was unsealed that he would not comment on the charges until he had heard or seen "any credible evidence" or "tangible facts".

EXPLOSIONS HEARD IN ETHIOPIA'S CAPITAL AFTER DRONE FLIGHTS BANNED



Explosions were heard overnight in Ethiopia's capital, some in the area of the military headquarters in the west and another in the south of the city, residents and diplomatic sources say. The blasts came hours after drone flights were banned over Addis Ababa and a week after fighting erupted in the north between the army and a newly launched alliance of armed groups including forces from the Tigray region. A source linked to the opposition fighters told the Reuters news agency they were behind what they said were drone strikes. "It was very loud. It was strong enough to set off car alarms," a resident in a southern area of the city, near the base of the secret service, told BBC Amharic. He estimated that he heard the explosion in the Gotera neighbourhood some time around 00:30 local time (21:30 GMT). Another resident told the BBC that he and his friends were playing games when they heard an explosion. He lives in the western suburb of Torhayloch, a neighbourhood close to the military headquarters. There were no official reports confirming the cause of the explosions, the exact locations affected or whether there were any casualties or damage.

Trump's AI rebrand causes 'unprecedented' demand for Slovenian website names



President Donald Trump's push to rename AI may be behind an "unprecedented" rise in registrations for domain names in Slovenia, according to its official national registry. The president wants AI to be called super intelligence - or SI - the same initials used by Slovenian websites. Register.si spokesperson Klara Herman said 44,000 web addresses with the .si suffix had been registered in September, compared to less than 2,000 in August - an increase of more than 2,100%. She said the scale of activity in late September was "unprecedented" compared to the previous 12 months. President Trump called for the technology to be renamed during his speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 11 September. "The use of the word artificial makes it sound fake," he said. "It's not fake, it's actually amazing. But we have to be careful... welcome to the new world of super intelligence." Internet domains are the unique human-readable addresses people type into their web browsers to access websites - like bbc.co.uk. Herman said registrations for .si web addresses in September stood out "very clearly" against the other months in the year, although she was "cautious" about attributing the entire increase to only President Trump's comments. She said on 30 September alone, 11,000 new registrations were recorded. One possible explanation for the purchases is a practice where people speculatively register specific domain names in case they increase in value later on and can be sold for a profit. For example, in 1997 Rick Schwartz, known as "The Domain King", bought the domain name men.com for $15,000 (£11,300). He sold it for $1.32 million seven years later. On Tuesday, President Trump hosted a meeting of top technology bosses for what he called "an extraordinary gathering" of the people "building America's Golden Age". He signed an executive order instructing US government departments and agencies to start using the terms "SI" and "Super Intelligence" and they should no longer acknowledge the use of the term AI. SI will take the place of AI in "official correspondence", websites, reports and other forms of communication, the order said. Images of the signatures for the order were mocked online however - when it was discovered "United States" had been spelt incorrectly underneath President Trump's signature. "The word 'artificial intelligence' makes it sound fake," Trump told the UN General Assembly last week, saying that SI "sounded much better".

He added the US would start using "the much more accurate term 'super intelligence, SI'" for its official documents.

It so happens that .si is the main suffix for Slovenia's internet domain names registry, meant to denote a website originates from the small Alpine country of some 2.1 million. "Since the speech, there has been a strong but stable increase of requests for the use of the '.si' domain," said Klara Herman, spokeswoman for Register.si, which manages Slovenia's domain names.

Tennessee halts executions after death row inmate Christa Pike survives hers



Executions in Tennessee have been halted for the rest of the year, Governor Bill Lee has said, after two attempts to execute death row inmate Christa Pike by lethal injection failed. In a statement to CBS News, the BBC's US partner, Lee said lawful executions were among the state's "most serious responsibilities", adding that he has ordered a third-party review "to determine exactly what occurred". Tennessee prison officials on Wednesday attempted to administer two lethal doses of pentobarbital to Pike but she survived and was taken to hospital. Her medical condition is unclear. Pike, 50 was sentenced to death in 1996 for the murder of Colleen Slemmer. She was 18 when she and her then-boyfriend, Tadaryl Shipp, beat, tortured and killed 19-year-old Slemmer. Pike would have been the first woman to be executed in Tennessee for over 200 years. Speaking to reporters at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday morning, Lee said: "I'm highly disappointed, along with Tennesseans, about what happened last night." Governor Lee has not made clear who will conduct the independent review of the state's execution procedures. His order to pause all executions will overlap with the planned 3 December execution of convicted murderer Gary Sutton. In court filings, Pike's lawyers said she needed "life-saving measures" after her botched execution. The Tennessee Department of Correction, which handled the execution, issued a statement defending its handling of the case.



Japan raises permanent residency fee by 20 times

WHAT HAPPENED IN FAILED EXECUTION OF CHRISTA PIKE - AND WHAT NEXT?



US convicted murderer Christa Pike is in hospital and being given "life-saving measures" after Tennessee authorities failed in their attempt to execute her by lethal injection. The case of Pike, whose attempted execution had already been the subject of a high-profile legal battle, has raised a number of questions. These include what went went wrong, what happens next, and - for opponents of the death penalty - fresh concerns around the suffering of an inmate when an execution does not go to plan. What happened? Pike, 50, was sentenced to death in 1996 for the murder of 19-year-old Colleen Slemmer, an attack that was perpetrated alongside her then-boyfriend Tadaryl Shipp. She was scheduled to be put to death on Wednesday evening, local time. The injections were allowed by the US Supreme Court at the eleventh hour after the legal battle. Pike was given two syringes of the drug pentobarbital, though her legal team said these failed to stop her heartbeat and that she could still be heard snoring. US death row inmate survives execution attempt after two lethal injections The Tennessee Department of Correction defended the method it used, and said "the protocol does not allow for additional procedures beyond what was carried out this evening". The state protocol does not clearly specify what should happen if an inmate remains alive after a second dose, according to the AP news agency. Authorities have yet to provide their explanation of why the dosage given to Pike proved to be non-fatal, although medical experts have provided theories of their own. Dr Joel Zivot, a professor at the Emory University School of Medicine who told the BBC he had been retained by Pike's legal team as a medical expert, said she probably never achieved a sufficient blood level of pentobarbital to cause apnoea and cardiovascular failure. What happens next? The state correction department added that Pike had been taken to an off-site medical facility. One of her lawyers said she was "being provided life-saving measures" in hospital. Her health status is unclear as of Thursday morning. In his emailed comments to the BBC, Zivot said: "It's very possible that as a consequence of the delay of the beginning of resuscitation she will have a brain injury."

"100 Per Cent Every Time": Usman Nurmagomedov Reveals Khabib Nurmagomedov's Relentless Fight Camp Routine

Retired UFC great Khabib Nurmagomedov remains fully immersed in training camps for his team, with his cousin Usman Nurmagomedov. According to his cousin and PFL lightweight champion Usman, the former lightweight champion leaves his personal routine behind for up to six weeks to coach and train at maximum intensity, taking part in every session. Usman says Khabib expects maximum effort throughout camp, ensuring that fighters under his guidance never train at half capacity. This reflects the disciplined approach that powered his own undefeated 29-0 MMA career. He added, "We never work at half capacity with Khabib. It's 100 per cent every time." Retirement hasn't stopped Khabib Nurmagomedov from going ALL IN during fight camps. ???? Usman Nurmagomedov says Khabib leaves everything behind for 4–6 weeks to stay with the team throughout camp, taking part in every session and demanding full intensity from start to finish. "We never work at half capacity with Khabib. It's 100 percent every time." Usman Nurmagomedov Details Khabib Nurmagomedov's Intense Camp Routine Speaking to Russian MMA figure Kamil Gadzhiev in comments circulated online, Usman said Khabib commits entirely to the team during a fight camp. According to Usman, Khabib stays with the fighters for four to six weeks, attends every session and demands the same intensity from the athletes around him.

The claim offers a glimpse into the demanding approach that helped make the Dagestani team one of the most recognisable camps in modern mixed martial arts. 'The Eagle' stepped away from competition after submitting Justin Gaethje at UFC 254 in October 2020, ending his professional career unbeaten at 29-0. UFC president Dana White formally confirmed his retirement in March 2021, and Khabib was inducted into the UFC Hall of Fam Wing in 2022. Th longer competes, appearance around camps and cages has kept him closely linked to the careers of fighters from his team and family.



Former Champion's Influence Remains Strong Usman Nurmagomedov, one of the foremost lightweights to emerge from that system, has frequently worked under Khabib's guidance. The 28-year-old previously held the Bellator lightweight title and later won the PFL lightweight championship, maintaining an undefeated professional record that major fighter databases list at 22 wins with no defeats, alongside one no contest.

Harshita Tomar, Shital Verma Clinch Asiad Bronze In Sailing After Finishing Fourth



Indian sailors Harshita Tomar and Shital Verma won bronze medal on Thursday in the women's skiff event, giving India another medal in the sailing competition in the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. The Indian pair finished third after nine races in the opening series, with 24 net points and 28 total points. Harshita and Shital had initially finished fourth, but China, which had originally secured third place, was subsequently disqualified, moving the Indian pair into the bronze-medal position. The medal came late in the evening. Earlier on Thursday, sailors Manu Francis and Prince Noble clinched the silver medal in the men's skiff event at the Asian Games 2026.Indian sailors Harshita Tomar and Shital Verma won bronze medal on Thursday in the women's skiff event, giving India another medal in the sailing competition in the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. The Indian pair finished third after nine races in the opening series, with 24 net points and 28 total points. Harshita and Shital had initially finished fourth, but China, which had originally secured third place, was subsequently disqualified, moving the Indian pair into the bronze-medal position. The medal came late in the evening. Earlier on Thursday, sailors Manu Francis and Prince Noble clinched the silver medal in the men's skiff event at the Asian Games 2026. The Indian duo finished second behind China after completing nine races with 23 points, while Hong Kong secured the bronze medal.

India And Pakistan Could Play Against Each Other Three Times In Cricket World Cup 2027



The schedule for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2027 is out! In the main event, there will be a total of 12 teams, which have been divided into groups A and B. Each group contains six teams. India, Pakistan, Australia, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan have been placed in the same group. Qualifier A will join the five sides in Group A. While India begin their campaign on October 7 with a match against Australia, the Shubman Gill-led side will face arch-rivals Pakistan on October 10 in Johannesburg. Such is the format of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2027 that India and Pakistan could face each other three times. The first clash between the sides will be the Group A match that takes place on October 10. It is worth noting that the top three teams from each group will move into the Super 7 phase. The best fourth-placed team across the two groups will take the final seventh spot. There will be no points carried over from the group stage to the Super 7, which means that the teams will play in a round-robin format. Each team will get six more matches from October 25 to November 14, which will provide another opportunity for an India vs Pakistan clash. The top four teams from the Super 7 phase will progress to the semi-finals. This means that if both India and Pakistan finish in the top four, they could have a third opportunity to face each other in the semi-finals or in the final. Australia are the defending champions of the Cricket World Cup, having registered a six-wicket win over India in 2023 in Ahmedabad. Meanwhile, Pakistan had finished in fifth place with four wins and five losses in nine matches.

Rohit Sharma Breaks Silence On Shubman Gill, Makes Massive World Cup Admission



India's experienced opener Rohit Sharma has his eyes firmly set on the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027. Rohit Sharma opened up about Shubman Gill's captaincy, his desire to win another ICC Men's Cricket World Cup for India, and making the most of every opportunity in the lead-up to next year's tournament. On Wednesday, in the second India vs West Indies ODI, the Indian opening pair of Rohit Sharma and skipper Shubman Gill put together the second-highest opening partnership for the team. Rohit and Gill enthralled the crowd and rewrote the record books during the second ODI against the West Indies at Guwahati. Chasing a record-breaking target of 406, Rohit and Gill put on a 255-run stand, which ended when Rohit was dismissed for 101 off 75 balls. He struck 10 fours and six sixes at a strike rate of 134.67. Speaking to JioStar ahead of India's third ODI against the West Indies, Rohit Sharma analysed Shubman Gill's captaincy: "Shubman Gill has a great cricketing brain, no doubt about that. He has been captaining for about a year now, so it is unfair to judge him as a captain so early. But from what I have seen, he has been impressive. He is very clear about what he wants. That is the most important thing a captain should have. If the captain is clear, the players around him will also be clear. That is what I see with Shubman. He knows what he wants and is moving in the right direction. Of course, any captain needs the support of the players and the staff around him. I am sure that in whatever way I can help him, I will do that." He further elaborated on his camaraderie with Gill: "Shubman is the captain, but that does not mean I stay away from him or talk less with him. Ever since he made his debut, we have been moving in the same direction. That is how it should be, and it should not change for any reason. He needs the confidence of the team, knowing that everyone is moving together.

Tyreek Hill And Keeta Vaccaro's Divorce Fight Continues As She Makes A Bold Move For Her Own Future



Cheetah Tyreek Hill and Keeta Vaccaro continue to remain in their divorce dispute, which is now further complicated by another legal issue that involves recorded conversations at the heart of the proceedings. The popular WR has sought a restraining order against recordings taken by Keeta's mother, preventing them from being heard in court. In the meantime, while these issues are going through the courts, Keeta seems to be developing her own life away from Tyreek. She is marketing Capri Partners, her financial literacy app and the philosophy behind financial confidence. In her recent Instagram post, she spoke about learning finances and moving on. She mentioned nothing about her divorce or Tyreek. Keeta Vaccaro Is Building Capri Partners While Her Divorce Fight Continues Away from the court proceedings, Keeta Vaccaro has been concentrating on her financial literacy app dubbed Capri Partners. The aim of this app is to make personal finance easy through tutorials taking just five minutes daily. This name of the app was inspired by her daughter named Capri. According to Keeta Vaccaro, she learned the art of developing apps and websites when developing her app. She used artificial intelligence for coding and she developed it all alone. The recent post she made on Instagram reads, "Go sooner.

US Tennis Star Emma Navarro Reveals Health Battle, Ends Season

American Emma Navarro, a three-time WTA tournament champion, revealed a three-year battle with health issues on Wednesday, battling against her body as she found success on the court. Navarro, ranked 24th in the world, said she will skip the remainder of the 2026 campaign to prepare herself for a 2027 Australia return. "I'm taking the rest of this year to work on dialing in my medication and fueling protocols so that I can hopefully feel back to 100% again," Navarro wrote in an emotional Instagram post. Navarro won the WTA Strasbourg title in May.



"They Can't Take My Medal": Ancy Sojan Responds To Social Media Trolling After Asian Games Silver



Asian Games silver medallist long jumper Ancy Sojan has hit back at social media trolls who criticised her appearance, hairstyle and jewellery, saying their comments cannot take away from her achievement. Ancy clinched silver at the ongoing Asian Games after leading the competition for a major part before China's Huang Yingying produced a late 6.55m effort to snatch the gold. The Indian finished with a best jump of 6.53m. The 25-year-old received criticism on social media over her appearance and attire following her performance, but said the trolling would not diminish the significance of her medal. "Let them troll because they do not have this award and don't know the value of this medal and how much I worked hard for this medal and there trolling is never gonna (going to) be make me lose (remove) these (her hair clips)," she told PTI upon her arrival in Delhi. "They can't take my award, my medal and records or anything. I will continue this as this is my confidence," she added. Reflecting on the narrow miss for gold, Ancy said she had accepted the result and was already looking ahead to bigger goals. "That jump was nothing for me actually I tried hard and I am accepted the fate that after the third sixth jump it is not mine. I need to work hard, god might have some other plans for me and something big is waiting for me," she said with a smile on her face. The medal also made Ancy a two-time Asian Games medallist, a feat she was proud of. "I am happy that I made my country proud, this is the second time and I am two time Asian Games medallist, I am proudly announcing that," she said. "Let them troll because they do not have this award and don't know the value of this medal and how much I worked hard for this medal and there trolling is never gonna (going to) be make me lose (remove) these (her hair clips)," she told PTI upon her arrival in Delhi.

'Is This The End?' Cristiano Ronaldo's Future With Portugal Unclear After Veteran Star Leaves Team



Cristiano Ronaldo's abrupt decision to leave Portugal's training camp after an apparent rift with coach Jorge Jesus has left many wondering about his future in international soccer. Is he done with Portugal? Or will he make peace with his coach and be back for the next international break? There were few answers on Thursday, a day after the all-time leading scorer in men's international soccer decided to walk out on Portugal's training camp in a decision announced a few hours after Jesus said the star forward would not start the game against Denmark in the Nations League. The 41-year-old Ronaldo, who played in his sixth World Cup this year, only said that in due course he would "tell the Portuguese people the truth about the reasons" behind his departure. The federation also gave few details, saying only that Ronaldo left the training camp and the rest of the team would remain focused on Thursday's game against Denmark. One possible clue: There was already a new owner of Ronaldo's famous No. 7 jersey, with Rafael Leão set to wear it on Thursday. In Portugal, the news of Ronaldo's departure fueled speculation that the country's biggest sporting star, who had already hinted that this is his last season in soccer, would not play again for the national team. "Is this the end?" read Thursday's front-page headline of the JM newspaper based in Ronaldo's native Madeira. "A sad farewell," the Portuguese sports paper A Bola said. "CR7 turns his back on the national team," read the headline on the O Jogo newspaper. Regardless of Ronaldo's and the federation's decisions going forward, the star player could possibly face a harsh punishment for leaving the training camp. The federation's disciplinary regulations say that any player who "abandons or fails to appear" without justification at a training session, match or activity of the national teams.

SUDIGALI SUDHEER'S G.O.A.T TO RELEASE IN THEATRES ON NOVEMBER 12



Presented by Asian Cinemas, the film stars Divya Bharathi as the female lead Popular comedian-turned-hero Sudigali Sudheer is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film G.O.A.T (Greatest of All Time). Divya Bharathi plays the female lead in the film, which is directed by Vedavyas. Jointly produced by Maha Teja Creations and Jaishnav Productions, the film is produced by Chandrasekhar Reddy Mogulla. Presented by the renowned production house Asian Cinemas, G.O.A.T is slated for a grand theatrical release on November 12. The content released from the film so far has received a positive response from audiences. The makers are now gearing up to unveil the film's trailer soon. Speaking about the film, producer Chandrasekhar Reddy Mogulla said, "The production work is currently underway. We are making the film on a lavish scale without compromising on the budget or production values. The film will also have high technical standards. We believe G.O.A.T will be a milestone in Sudigali Sudheer's career.

Hit Machine Anil Ravipudi Launches COCOONS MOVIE POSTER



Jagan Jogiraju, Sagar Kiran, Vikas Chaitanya, Sangana Duggu, Surabhi Deepti, and Deepti Padmanimmanagoti are playing the lead roles in the upcoming film Cocoons. The movie is being produced by Sukesh Potla, Mamatha Reddy Kasam, and Mahesh Gowri under the banners of New Wave Pictures and M.Arts Entertainments, with Mahesh Gowri directing the film. Promising to be an entertaining film that appeals to both youngsters and family audiences, Cocoons is set to hit the screens soon.

The poster of Cocoons was launched today by blockbuster director Anil Ravipudi. Speaking on the occasion, Anil Ravipudi said, "I am happy to launch the poster of Cocoons. The poster looks fresh and instantly grabs attention. Director Mahesh Gowri's innovative ideas are evident in the poster, and the title is also very interesting. One of the lead actors, Vikas, previously worked as a mentor on the popular television show Drama Juniors. He is now making his debut as an actor with this film. My best wishes to Jagan, Sagar, Vikas, and the entire team of Cocoons."

THE MOVIE 'TELLA KAAGITHAM' IS A PURE LOVE STORY - PRODUCER DIL RAJU



Presented by Mrs. K. Sridevi, the film 'Tellakagitham' is produced by Krishna Kommalapati under the banner of Arunachala Creations. Harsh Roshan and Nakshatra are providing the story, screenplay and dialogues for this movie. Ramesh Bandreddy is the director of this movie. The film is releasing on October 2. In this order, the pre-release event of this movie was held in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Producer TFDC Chairman Dil Raju, star directors Anil Ravipudi, Koratala Siva, Chandu Mondeti, Vashishta, Sailesh Kolanu, Ram Jagadish, producer Bandla Ganesh and others attended the ceremony. On this occasion..

"NO ONE CAN GUESS THE CLIMAX OF TATTVAM": HERO DINESH TEJ



Directed by Arjun Kola, Tattvam stars Dinesh Tej and Dashvika K in the lead roles. The film is jointly produced by Sheemakurthi Vamsi Krishna and Swetha Pasupuleti under the banners of Trayathi Ishani Creations and SK Productions.

Tattvam is an intriguing murder mystery thriller that promises to keep audiences hooked with its suspense, engaging screenplay and a unique storyline. The trailer and songs released recently have received an unexpected response from audiences. The film is gearing up for its theatrical release tomorrow.

Ahead of the release, hero Dinesh Tej interacted with the media on Wednesday and spoke about the film, his character and the experience of working on Tattvam.

■ WHAT MADE YOU ACCEPT TATTVAM?

The twists in this film are something nobody can easily guess. The emotion in the climax and the central point of the story—what a person discovers about himself and what he ultimately understands about Tattvam—really impressed me.

Overall, I found this murder mystery thriller very different and fresh. I believe audiences will feel the same when they watch it in theatres tomorrow.

■ WHAT KIND OF STORY IS TATTVAM?

There is a very thin line between superstition and belief. The entire story revolves around that line. The film is set in the year 2000.

■ WE HEARD THAT YOU MET WITH AN ACCIDENT WHILE WORKING ON THIS FILM?

We feel that all the negative experiences surrounding the film have somehow taken away the "evil eye." Our film has very strong content. During the promotional phase, both the heroine and I met with accidents. For me, it feels like I got a second life.





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